reverses in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka;

(b) the lessons Government propose to draw from the criticism levelled to the effect that these liberalisation measures have directly or indirectly benefited the Corporate Sector and failed to give any benefits to the masses.

(c) the strategy Government propose to devise for reorientation of the liberalisation measures in the wake of the criticism; and

(d) whether Government are aware of the flight of capital by foreign investors in the wake of these electoral reverses and the steps Government have taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) It is not correct to assume that the liberalisation measures have directly or indirectly benefited only the corporate sector and have failed to give any benefits to the masses. In fact, several measures have been undertaken by the Government to alleviate poverty, to generate additional employment and to enhance welfare of general masses.

Central Government Budget allocation for rural development has been increased by 126 per cent from Rs. 3100 crore in 1992-93 (BE) to Rs. 7010 crore in 1994-95 (BE). Allocation for Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) increased by 88 per cent from Rs. 2046 crore in 1992-94 (BE) to Rs. 3855 crore in 1994-95 (BE).

Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana, launched in 1993-94 aims to provide employment for more than 1 million persons.

Government has given a thrust to the social sectors. Outlay for Education in Central Plan has been increased by 62 per cent in 1994-95 (BE) over 1992-93 (BE). Similarly outlay for health has been enhanced by 91 per cent from Rs. 302 crores in 1992-93 (BE) to Rs. 578 crore in 1994-95 (BE).

(d) The inflow of foreign investment in 1993-94 was $ 4.1 billion. With an actual inflow of $ 3.9 billion in April-December, 1994, the inflow of foreign investment is expected to rise further in 1994-95.

Working of BIFR

211. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the inordinate delay caused by the BIFR which prove detrimental to the revival of sick industries almost reducing the companies to nothing;

(b) whether Government have examined the working of the BIFR with a view to streamline the process and cutting delays in providing relief to the sick units, and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof stating the measures taken by Government to expedite the process of disposal of sick units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that references received under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA) are dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Act. BIFR has also streamlined its procedures, reduced the time lag in hearing and shortened the overall duration of proceedings so as to ensure expeditious disposal of references. BIFR has further reported that 1639 references were registered

with it as on 31.12.1994. The break-up of these cases is as under:

1. Reference registered	1639
2. Dismissed as non-maintainable	345
3. Rehabilitation schemes approved/sanctioned	469
4. Winding up recommended	355
5. Others	1/2
6. Decisions taken (total of 2 to 5)	1181
7. Pending at various stages	458

BIFR has reported that the time taken for disposal of cases is steadily coming down. While the average time taken for disposal of cases registered with BIFR during 1987 to 1991 was 739 days, the average time taken for disposal of cases registered during 1992 and 1993 was 457 days and 196 days respectively. For the year 1994, the average time taken for cases already disposed of was 105 days.

Network of rural Financial Institutions

212. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has created a network of Rural Financial Institutions (RFIs) so as to reduce endemic poverty; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India has not been able to replicate the success of other countries in creating RFIs to make them either self-sustaining or actually competent in meeting the needs of the rural poor;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to improve the service of these banks to attain the goals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) Under the multi-agency approach to rural lending, a network of cooperatives, rural branches of commercial banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) cater to the credit needs of the rural areas. The details of such agencies are as under:—

	No. of institutions (End June, 1993)
1. *Cooperatives :*	
State Cooperative Banks	28
Central Cooperative Banks	352
Primary Agricultural Credit Societies including LAMPS and FSS	84302
State Land Development Banks	19
Primary Land Development Banks	693
2. *Commercial Banks:*	
79 Banks with 21,738 rural branches.	2
3. *Regional Rural Banks :*	
196 banks with 14543 branches	